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Report on Meeting of House of Councillors Dietmember Takemura Yasuko with UN Under-secretary-general Rafeeudin Achmed on August 8, 1990 at 10:00AM in Mr. Achmed's office.

(The appointment was sought by a fax from Japan explaining that Ms. Takemura Yasuko of the Upper House Foreign Affairs Comm. was anxious to clarify the nature of the Secretary-general's letter to President Suharto that was reported in the Jakarta Post of July 26, 1990 and to exchange views. Since I was interpreting for Ms Takemura, I was unable to take notes. There were two other people present, but I do not remember their names.)

Ms. Takemura expressed appreciation to Mr Achmed for answering the letters sent from 70 Diet members to Secretary-general de Cuellar several years ago. She recalled the comment in his letter that the secretary-general, like the Diet members, was concerned that the East Timorese be included in the negotiations.

Ms Takemura explained the nature of the Diet Forum on the East Timor Issue and said that the concern for East Timor sprang from a sincere reflection on Japan's past aggression in East Timor, and the desire to help in the present situation where Indonesia is committing the same kind of aggression, two hundred thousand East Timorese having lost their lives and instances of arbitrary arrest and torture continuing.

Mr. Ahmed mentioned the fact that the Pope had visited E.T. last year and said that he hoped the E.T. issue would be solved by the realization of the Portuguese parliamentarian's mission to E.T. Mr. Achmed referred to the mission in an optimistic tone.

Ms. Takemura raised the issue of the Secretary-general's letter to President Suharto. (We showed Mr. Achmed the copy of the Jakarta Post article.) Mr. Achmed said that the letter to Suharto was in order to encourage Indonesia to realize the carrying out of the Portuguese parliamentarians' mission to East Timor. At the same time, he said, a similar letter had been conveyed to President Suarez of Portugal. The Jakarta Post article was a strictly Indonesian interpretation, but could be said to be correct insofar as, if the parliamentarians' mission took place, this would lead to the solution of the issue and therefore the removal of the issue from the UN.

Mr. Achmed consistently expressed the hope that the mission would pave the way for a settlement.

Mr. Achmed gave an explanation about the differing views at the UN regarding self-determination for former colonial territories. While among African countries, he said, the trend is to support the maintaining of the colonial borders, in Asia it is not. He said the trend among Asian countries is to seek the unification of territories that were seperated by colonialism. For example, China, Macau and Hong Kong are being reunited now, and no one objects. The same for Malaysia; this is seen as the unifying of areas that were formerly one, but weredivided by colonial conquest. He said the same was true of Indonesia.

Ms. Takemura asked if the Secretary-general had received and answered the February 1989 letter from Bishop Belo urging the UN to conduct a referendum in East Timor. She asked: Had the Secretary General received a letter from Bishop Belo? Mr Achmed answered that the Secretary General had received no letter from East Timor; he had received a letter from "an undividual" outside of East Timor. Ms Takemura asked: Did the secretary general respond to the letter? Mr. Achmed said that "the individual" was informed that the letter had been received. Mr. Achmed did not refer to Bishop Belo, nor to the contents of the letter or who "the individual" was. We concluded the meeting and I took a couple of pictures of Ms. Takemura and Mr. Achmed standing in front of a Japanese picture.

Upon leaving the room, I called Ms. Takemura's attention to the wall-size map of the world in Mr. Achmed's office, pointing out that there was no mark separating East from West Timor. The man, who had been silent up to then, pointed to the fact that the map was a U.S. Defense Department map; "the U.N maps have a line," he said.

Mr. Achmed saw us out to the door and presented Ms. Takemura with a UN poster on the status of women around the world.

Jean Inglis (the interpretor at the meeting)

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Sept. 4, 1990

United Nations Under-secretary-general Rafeeudin Achmed
United Nations Plaza
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Achmed,

On behalf of Ms. Yasuko Takemura and myself, most sincere thanks for meeting with us in New York last month and responding to the concerns expressed regarding the issue of East Timor.

Unfortunately I was not able to take notes as well as translate, but I jotted down what I recalled to be the main points covered in the discussion when I returned to my hotel and have drawn up a report (which Ms. Takemura has checked.) I now send the report in the hope that you will make any corrections that you feel are called for or add any relevant comments. Ms Takemura would like to share the report with the Diet Forum on the East Timor issue as well as others concerned with the East Timor issue.

Be assured that Ms Takemura and the other members of the Diet Forum on the East Timor issue will do their utmost to support the efforts of the United Nations to seek a just solution to the issue of East Timor.

On behalf of Ms Takemura, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Jean Inglis

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